

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09058 261824Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NRC-07 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
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R 261814Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8603
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS BONN 09058

DEPT. PASS NRC

E.O.: 11652 N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PARM, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN FAST BREEDER PROGRAM

REF: BONN 08248

1. SUMMARY. ON MAY 24 1977, THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES
OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION SPD/FDP DROPPED AN
EARLIER DEMAND FOR A CONDITIONAL FREEZE OF SOME
DM 122 MILLION WHICH ARE PLANNED TO FUND RESEARCH
ON AN ADVANCED FAST BREEDER DESIGN (SNR-2) FOR
LATER COMMERCIALIZATION. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BONN 09058 261824Z

2. THIS EARLIER DEMAND OF A GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
WAS WEAKENED CONSIDERABLY BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET COMMITTEE.
HE STATED THAT THE CONCERN OF THE FAST BREEDER
OPPONENTS WOULD BE REFLECTED BY A REQUEST CONTAINED
IN THE REPORT OF HIS COMMITTEE WHICH ASKS THE
FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT)

NOT TO APPROVE ANY NEW PROJECTS, UNLESS A THOROUGH AND FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF THE FAST BREEDER PROGRAM IN THE FRG HAS BEEN CONDUCTED.

THIS REQUEST WAS ENDORSED BY AN APPEAL OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE MINISTER TO SUBMIT A DETAILED STUDY ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DANGERS OF THE FAST BREEDER BY SEPTEMBER AND NOT TO ADOPT NEW OBLIGATIONS IN THE MEANTIME.

3. STATE SECRETARY V. HAUFF (BMFT) HAD TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THE ACCESS TO THIS NEW ENERGY OPTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WELCOMED AN INTENSIFIED PUBLIC DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FAST BREEDER. IN THE SAME CONTEXT, HAUFF SUPPORTED A MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAD CALLED FOR STRONGER FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES INTERESTED IN THE UTILIZATION OF THE FAST BREEDER. THE STATE SECRETARY EXPLICITLY WARNED THAT STOPPING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN 300 -EMW PROTOTYPE FAST BREEDER REACTOR WOULD BE FAR MORE COSTLY THAN CONTINUING THE PROJECT, APART FROM THE FACT THAT THIS WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE OVER 8000 HIGHLY QUALIFIED JOBS.

4. HAUFF ALSO TURNED TO BREEDER TECHNOLOGIES NOT INVOLVING PLUTONIUM. HE MENTIONED THAT THIS PROBLEM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 09058 261824Z

WAS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS FORMED AFTER THE LONDON SUMMIT MEETING. HE CONTINUED THAT THE FRG INTENDED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MINIMIZING OF THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. THE COSTS FOR THIS THEORETICAL STUDY WERE NOT GREAT.

STOESSEL

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